

# **Fast Facts on California's Agricultural Economy**

Compiled by: Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

California is one of only five agricultural regions in the world that has a Mediterranean growing climate. As a result, our agricultural production is extraordinary, accounting for more than \$43 billion. Additionally, the great diversity of our agriculture allows us to produce more commodities than any other state in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

## **California Agriculture**

- In 2011, California agriculture experienced a 15% increase in its sales value of products, receiving \$43.5 billion for its output.<sup>2</sup>
- California's top 5 agricultural export destinations were: Canada, \$3 million; European Union, \$2.4 million; China/Hong Kong, \$1.7 million; Japan, \$1.4 million; and Mexico, \$830 thousand.<sup>3</sup>

## **Agricultural Commodities**

- California's agricultural abundance includes more than 400 commodities.<sup>4</sup>
- California is the nation's sole exporter of many agricultural commodities, supplying 99% of more of the following: almonds, artichokes, dates, dried plums, garlic, kiwifruit, olives, olive oil, pistachios, raisins, grapes, and walnuts.<sup>5</sup>

## **California Farms**

- In 2011, 81,500 farms operated in California, 3.7% of the national total.<sup>6</sup>
- California is the country's largest agricultural producer and exporter. During 2011, California devoted 24.5 million acres to farming and ranching, producing nearly half of U.S. grown fruits, nuts, and vegetables.<sup>7</sup>
- California ranked #1 in cash farm receipts in 2011, representing 11.6% of the U.S. total. The state accounted for 15% national receipts for crops, and 7.4% of the U.S. revenue for livestock and livestock products.<sup>8</sup>
- The major cash crops of agricultural exports are as follows: fruits and nuts, \$15.32 billion; livestock and poultry, \$12.36 billion; vegetable and melon, \$7.24 billion; field crops, \$4.93 billion; and greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture, \$3.69 billion.<sup>9</sup>

## **Dairy Production**

- California's increase in revenue was led by dairy producers. The dairy sector received a record \$7.68 billion for their milk production, a 30% increase from the previous year.<sup>10</sup>
- California leads the nation in milk production and produced 21.1% of the nation's milk supply last year.<sup>11</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>2</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>3</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>4</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>5</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>6</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>7</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>8</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>9</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>10</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013
- <sup>11</sup> <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/Statistics/PDFs/2013/FinalDraft2012-2013.pdf>; California Department of Food and Agriculture, "California Agricultural Statistics Review: 2012-2013," accessed May 9, 2013